# THE RESPONSE OF

# SASKATCHEWAN RESIDENTS

# TO A PROPOSAL

# FOR CREATION OF

# THE SASKATCHEWAN COMMUNICATIONS ADVANCED NETWORK

March 5, 1985.

The Honourable J. Gary Lane, Q.C.
Minister Responsible for Communications
345 Legislative Building
REGINA, Saskatchewan
S4S 0B2

Dear Mr. Lane:

On behalf of the SCAN Public Hearing Committee, I am pleased to present to you our report of the public response to the government proposal for a Saskatchewan Communications Advanced Network.

The schedule of hearings allowed the committee to interact with the public on a wide range of issues related to the proposal and to explore individual presentations in depth.

The report is the result of the careful consideration of all written materials and oral presentations that were submitted to the committee. The committee believes that the report is a reflection of public response to the white paper.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne D. Kyle
Chairman of the Committee.

Members of the Committee

James Carefoot
Sheila Dietrich
Elaine Douglas
Lewis Riederer

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In July 1984, the residents of Saskatchewan were invited to consider a proposal for the creation of an advanced communications network. A provincial government white paper described the Saskatchewan Communications Advanced Network (SCAN), its potential for providing improved communications services, and solicited public reaction to the proposal through a series of public hearings. Based on the information obtained through the public hearing process, in the opinion of the committee, there is strong support for the establishment of a Saskatchewan Communications Advanced Network.

The committee concludes that development and implementation of SCAN by the Government of Saskatchewan is both timely and imperative. Such a system should encourage, facilitate and co-ordinate the use of electronic communications technology. SCAN's primary goal should be the development and delivery of educational, cultural and informational programs for improvement of human and economic resources in the province.

Any decision to proceed with the development of a Saskatchewan Communications Advanced Network must recognize and consider the following:

1. A need to increase employment opportunities and promote Saskatchewan based production and programming and provide electronic communication services.

2. Development of a plan for future expansion of full network services to all regions of the province.

3. Liaison and co-operation with established educational, cultural, informational, governmental, health, agricultural, production and communications bodies in the province.

4. The current and potential production capabilities of Saskatchewan educational institutions, radio and television stations, cable companies and other provincial production resources. It may be necessary to provide a production centre to encourage production and to facilitate use of the network.

5. A need to establish SCAN centres to facilitate access to network services.

6. Responsibility for the technical quality of SCAN services and policies pertaining to security on the system, access to production, scheduling, copyright and other related issues.

7. Teleconferencing, computer networking and educational/cultural television are viable and serve different needs. Pilot projects were suggested as one option to evaluate the proposed delivery of services and to determine which would meet public needs most efficiently and most effectively.

8. There seems to be limited public understanding and awareness of the hardware and software of electronic communications services. Any agency created to introduce a public communications system must provide for training and public education to improve awareness and understanding of such services.

9. A requirement to provide an organization with enough program and fiscal independence from government to undertake its own long term planning and management of program and budget operations. The organization, at "arm's length" from government, should have:

   - A responsive representative Board of Directors, with representation from the educational, cultural, industrial, labour, Indian, Native and agricultural communities.

   - Regional Advisory Boards to facilitate regional input to the central Board and to exercise influence over regional matters.

   - An effective administrative staff, headed by an executive director with strong qualities of leadership and talent in human relations.

10. A need to provide operational funding on an on-going basis. In addition, "seed money" will be necessary to stimulate development of new programs, data bases and software.

**FOREWORD**

In July 1984, the residents of Saskatchewan were invited to consider a proposal for the creation of an advanced communications network. A provincial government white paper described the Saskatchewan Communications Advanced Network (SCAN), its potential for providing improved communications services, and solicited public reaction to the proposal. The proposal stated:

> "A network, to be called the Saskatchewan Communications Advanced Network (SCAN), is proposed to carry a variety of new communications services to the public, including community television, cultural information, educational services and access to computer data bases, plus a host of other services that would evolve over time. SCAN would be intended to complement traditional ways of communicating by making access to certain kinds of information easier through electronic communication."

Public hearings were conducted in the following centres: Regina, Estevan, Yorkton, Tisdale, Humboldt, Swift Current, Prince Albert, La Ronge, North Battleford and Saskatoon. Public response to the proposal was expressed in a total of 121 oral and written submissions.

Through the process of public hearings, analyzing the content of written briefs and numerous discussions, the committee has developed a vision that has gone beyond the management of technical facilities for communications. That vision represents the major challenge for SCAN. There is a need in Saskatchewan for a complete system that provides more than access to communications hardware. The residents of Saskatchewan require a system which will promote and ensure articulation and co-operation among all existing resources, facilities, organizations and agencies in the education, communication and cultural fields within the province. Use of the term "system" implies that individual locations on the network could determine to some extent the nature of the programming at that location and not be entirely dependent upon centralized distribution content. In designing such a system, consideration must be given to a number of important issues:

- Co-operation and co-ordination. Many groups, including educational and agricultural agencies, health organizations, libraries and other information service agencies currently are seeking solutions to communications problems. They desire timely and efficient delivery of information and programs, but their efforts are isolated one from another.

- The absence of technical expertise and financial resources. These are potential obstacles that would inhibit access to and use of the proposed network.

- Effective community input and participation.

- Use of locally produced material. This is imperative but the resources which are available from outside the province also should be utilized.

- Network coverage and service to remote and rural areas.

The committee believes that this report reflects what was said through the public hearing process. All information received has been incorporated in a series of observations and operating principles under which SCAN should function. These have been prepared in accordance with the committee's terms of reference as outlined in a letter to the chairman from the Minister Responsible for Communications. (A copy of the letter is contained in Appendix A)

## PUBLIC RESPONSE

Public support for the proposed Saskatchewan Communications Advanced Network became apparent as the hearings proceeded. Of the total number of briefs and oral presentations, 83% indicated support for the proposal.

What was envisioned by some, particularly those in the production sector, was a system which could effectively co-ordinate production facilities, could provide co-production assistance and would be active in training the public to access electronic communication services. This activity would stimulate the creation of Saskatchewan-produced resources, the basis of a new information industry, with SCAN as one market for those resources. In addition, SCAN could act as the retailer of new materials beyond provincial borders.

Respondents who supported the proposal desired a system which could improve access to information, education, training and professional development opportunities. Representatives of libraries, community colleges, school boards and universities saw the use of SCAN services as an efficient and effective means of enhancing existing programs. Many were concerned with the disparity of education programs currently available to rural consumers when compared to those that are available to the urban residents. It is believed that an electronic delivery system could reduce this inequality.

Volunteer and non-profit groups desired a means to interact effectively with dispersed memberships and the public. Current communications efforts, using pamphlets, form letters and posters, are costly and time consuming. Co-ordinated access to new delivery modes, production facilities, training and expertise would provide opportunities for improving the exchange of information. The use of SCAN could provide the means for the effective use of time and financial resources.

Almost half of all respondents assumed that television would be the distribution medium most widely employed. As such, they saw limited access to the Broadband Network as a factor that restricted their full acceptance of the SCAN proposal.

The suggestion in the white paper that funding could be diverted from existing budgets to use SCAN's services was not supported. Many individuals argued that there is little money available in budgets for experimentation with electronic delivery methods. It was suggested that more information is required before an assessment can be made of the cost-effectiveness of using the proposed system. Other groups, particularly those in the performing arts, considered any unilateral diversion of government funding to be a threat to their ability to function effectively.

In summary, the degree of public support and widespread expression of need has led the committee to conclude that a co-ordinated effort toward the development of improved communications, such as the proposed network, is both imperative and timely.

## PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF BENEFITS

In voicing support for the creation of an advanced communications system, many presenters envisioned benefits for education, culture, health, agriculture, local production, libraries and various associations' programs. Their comments are summarized below:

### Education

Approximately one-third of all submissions were from school boards, community colleges, universities, and other groups whose primary mandate is public education. In the majority of these, it was suggested that an important application of the network would be to provide credit programming, training opportunities, professional development and curriculum support.

At the post-secondary education level, benefits would be derived from the ability to deliver programming to small dispersed groups. Community colleges were particularly hopeful that SCAN would provide a new means to deliver additional credit classes. Where an instructor cannot physically be present, for reasons of economics or distance, electronic technology is capable of delivering a much needed substitute service.

Benefits for the Kindergarten-Grade 12 education system would derive from the access to more resources to enhance and supplement existing programs. The impact of this would be strongly felt in small rural schools where the full complement of resources and course offerings often are not available.

### Culture and Heritage

The increased visibility of the arts through distribution to larger audiences, and a new demand for film and television production, would create an ongoing need for the skills of artists, writers, and producers. This demand would result in more jobs and a much needed stimulation of these cultural industries within the province.

Reference was made to the potential of the system to contribute to the creation of a deeper appreciation for the province's heritage by encouraging the exchange of information about history, minorities, ethnic values, and a whole range of similar topics. Native and Indian groups were among those who felt strongly that the services of the Saskatchewan Communications Advanced Network could benefit them. The services of SCAN could help to preserve and communicate their cultural values and broaden the understanding of issues which affect them.

### Health Oriented Programs

Health care professionals were unanimous in their suggestion that SCAN could support provincial health care services by providing staff development opportunities. Professionals

require constant access to evolving information to keep pace with new developments in health sciences and related technologies. Electronic communications and distance education techniques already are being used widely to accomplish this. SCAN could support the health education system and expand the scope and quality of its services.

Benefits also would be derived from the distribution of information to the general public. Persons with certain medical problems could benefit directly from specially designed programs on the care and management of their condition. More generally, benefits would accrue to health care consumers from exposure to information regarding lifestyles, better nutrition, exercise programs and other public health programs. Improved lifestyles eventually could lead to cost savings for government through reduced expenditures on Medicare and other public health programs.

Agriculture

Access to updated and timely information is fundamental to improved productivity in modern agriculture. Several agricultural agencies stressed the advantages of using electronic communications as a means of improving access to such information. Recent successful experiments using videotex and television were cited as examples of how the agricultural community could benefit from services of the proposed Saskatchewan Communications Advanced Network. To achieve maximum benefits, an important objective would be to put more information relevant to Saskatchewan into data banks. The development and maintenance of a data bank within the province, and the provision of seed money to encourage transfer of information to this data bank, would be an important first step toward meeting this objective.

Production and Communications Groups

The development of SCAN would be beneficial to the information and cultural industries in Saskatchewan. The increasing demand for audio, print and visual resources would result in the creation of new jobs for artists and technicians in the private production sector. Addressing the question of their ability to match quantity and quality requirements, production sector representatives stated that adequate resources currently exist within the province to meet almost any demand.

Libraries

Library groups agreed that the proposed network could enhance and extend their services. As society moves further into the information age, more individuals are considering electronic technologies, such as television and computers, as information

sources as well as entertainment media. Libraries are fully aware of these trends and consequently are beginning to use electronic media, in addition to the printed word, to provide information and services to the public. It was suggested in one submission that the network itself would be a library in the sense that it could provide universal access to more information in a variety of modes.

Associations

Professional, volunteer and other associations stressed the benefits of membership training and development through improved access to information. A frequent suggestion was that workshops, which currently require physical re-location from one centre to another, could be offered to a number of locations, simultaneously, at a considerable saving of time and money. The network also could be of benefit to association members by providing training to them so that they can better utilize electronic media as a means of reaching the public.

In summary, it can be said that numerous and varied benefits were perceived by those who made written and oral presentations to the hearing committee. The essential benefits of such a system, as will be seen in the following section, are contained in the programming that it could deliver.

**CONTENT**

Emphasis was placed on the need for quality in programming carried on the proposed communications system. The necessity for high quality, locally produced material was emphasized most frequently by those directly involved in its creation. They viewed SCAN as a potential market for such products and they believe that freelance talent and production capability exist within the province to ensure high quality. Several respondents suggested that unless network programming was technically equal to what is available on commercial systems, SCAN neither would find nor hold an audience. Other individuals suggested that it was not necessary to match the high budget production style of commercial systems in all cases. Their view was that a specific audience, at whom specialized programming is directed, will be more interested in the content of the program than the style in which it is presented. It is obvious that the presentation style should not detract from content and it will be necessary to maintain technical standards in programming.

Many observed that the most important role of the Saskatchewan Communications Advanced Network should be one of "narrowcasting", that is, to direct programming to specific audiences. Typical suggestions of this included: network delivery to school children; part-time university students; or ethnic minorities. Narrowcasting could occur in any or all delivery modes proposed for SCAN, thereby effectively presenting content in the medium most suitable for the message and the intended audience.

There were many specific suggestions and offers of content including:

- Saskatchewan history, folklore and culture;
- library catalogues;
- university classes;
- curriculum support materials for schools;
- professional development programs for health personnel, board members, teachers, firemen, communication workers, etc.;
- Native and Indian programs;
- timely agricultural data, news and information;
- data base information;
- telecourses;
- women's issues;
- ethnic programming;
- theatre and symphonies;
- interactive literature;
- audiotapes that provide information on a multitude of topics;
- public events;
- English classes for new Canadians;
- programs for literacy development;
- poison control information; and
- tourist information.

Distribution of Saskatchewan produced materials to Saskatchewan audiences was seen as being central to the role of SCAN. In terms of commercial television, it is recognized that the province is served at the national and international levels.

It frequently was pointed out that valuable and relevant material is available from neighboring provinces and beyond. Much of this content can be purchased for a fraction of the cost of producing it locally. It is important, therefore, that some kind of balance be maintained between locally produced content and that which is acquired from sources that are outside provincial boundaries. A balance must be maintained that ensures the vitality of our own information industry but does not deny access to the best possible range of resources.

## MODES OF DELIVERY

Throughout the hearing process, individuals reflected a variety of experiences with electronic communications. These ranged from those having no telephone connection to those in daily contact with advanced inter-active systems that span the continent. Despite this, the views expressed, respecting the proposed delivery services of the network, were consistent and a number of generalizations can be made.

The majority of presenters referred to television as the principal mode of delivery. This medium is a familiar one and many presentations reflected direct experience either with producing television programming, receiving information of value from it, or using television to support ongoing programs. The concerns expressed about its use centered around how to make SCAN television services available to all residents and funding the high cost of production.

Fewer references were made to the use of teleconferencing and videotex, yet it was suggested that they must be a necessary component of any SCAN implementation plan. The primary reason for this suggestion is that such services use the existing telephone network and would be universally accessible throughout the province.

Teleconferencing can be used in distance education as a means of facilitating student-instructor exchange, an essential element in distance education programs. While there was reference to the savings that could be realized through the use of teleconferencing, it was stated that current line and equipment charges are impediments to its wider use. A more attractive pricing of the service would appear necessary before teleconferencing is extensively used.

Videotex was cited consistently as a means of obtaining timely information quickly and efficiently. Its wide use as a delivery mode, that transmits Saskatchewan originated information, is dependent upon the creation of a data bank which has been developed for Saskatchewan residents.

Professional, medical, safety and other public service organizations expressed a need for an interactive system. The exchange of information between these organizations, and their special needs audiences, could be improved by electronic communications. These users would require that the exchange of information remain secure when it pertains to medical reports, legal matters and other confidential information.

In summary, it is apparent that the Saskatchewan Communications Advanced Network must be a composite of several inter-related modes capable of ensuring consistency, continuity, compatibility and, in certain instances, confidentiality of services.

COVERAGE, ACCESS AND UTILIZATION:

The white paper clearly outlined the coverage of the proposed network and its limitations:

> "SCAN initially will be carried on the Provincial telephone system and SaskTel's cable network or BBN (Broadband Network). The telephone network will reach all of the Province's communities with some form of information communications. As the BBN will reach fifty-two communities by the end of 1984, approximately sixty percent of the Province's population could have access to the full services of SCAN."

This statement from the white paper was a focus of criticism in the majority of submissions.

Respondents from both urban centres and remote locations favoured a system that would reach the entire province with all services. A number of respondents suggested that the proposal is discriminatory; residents in or near major centres would benefit extensively, while those in rural and remote locations would see only limited benefits. If the proposed system is to have a major impact on the quality of life in remote or rural Saskatchewan, people living in these areas must have access to all of the proposed services. The current proposal states that only 60% of the population will be fully served. The remaining 40%, which includes residents of the north, persons on Indian reserves and those living in rural areas and in small communities, not on the fibre optic network, are those with a greater need for better information services.

Several options were suggested for extending television services. Satellite transmission as well as low-power relay of signals were mentioned. It is apparent that the method used to provide equitable distribution of services will need to be addressed during the planning of the network.

The proposed creation of SCAN centres received support. A SCAN centre could take one of many forms, from a sophisticated studio, to a room with the required communications connections. They would contain the resources to facilitate the exchange of information between network users. A centre may be hosted by a hospital, school, library, university or other similar agency. A proposal wherein the network provides equipment and personnel, while the host provides space, maintenance and security, is one arrangement that merits consideration. A complementary proposal was that several SCAN centres, complete with the required equipment, be made mobile. A mobile SCAN centre could provide services in several communities on a scheduled basis, thereby avoiding the cost of establishing permanent facilities in locations where it is not feasible. SCAN centres should be used to provide access, to ensure training, and to stimulate use of the network.

It was stated that a sophisticated communications network would be of little value if the charges for use of its distribution services were too high. Perhaps the most important role of the system will be to ensure access to telecommunications facilities at a price that will encourage their use. The savings which accrue through "bulk purchase" of services from SaskTel may allow for reasonable pricing without the need for subsidies.

## FUNDING

No presenter attempted to provide an estimate of the total cost of network implementation yet many comments pertained to proposed SCAN functions and their possible funding.

Recommendations ranged from an entirely subsidized network (like the public road system) to the establishment of a self-supporting operation. A variety of possible revenue sources were suggested: co-productions; co-sponsorships; regional levy; pay TV principles; royalty provisions; user fees; inter-institutional agreements; inter-provincial arrangements; as well as direct grants from federal sources. The majority of presenters stated that the proposed network should operate as a public agency with its principal funding coming from the provincial government.

The high cost of providing all program services to all parts of the province was well understood. Saskatchewan residents have gained sufficient experience with new communication technologies to realize that there is a high cost associated with their introduction. In spite of this, universal access was emphasized to be an important operational objective for SCAN.

The staged implementation of the system was suggested as one means for reducing its initial cost. Staging would allow the system to be implemented as a series of pilot projects. These could be evaluated by network users to assess their potential for long term use. The design of the Saskatchewan Communications Advanced Network will have been completed thus allowing these staged activities to be directed toward the long-term goals of the system. The experiences of others outside the province in implementing "distance education" networks also could yield information which would provide guidance for the planning, funding and implementation of this province's system.

Concern was expressed over the concept of using funds from existing budgets to finance SCAN. Most respondents believed that these budgets were needed to finance existing programs and, therefore, would not be available to finance SCAN. It is possible that reallocation of funds within existing budgets may be considered where there is a clear indication of cost savings through utilization of electronic media. Yet it is apparent that more funds will be needed. For example, seed monies would be useful to stimulate production activity and assist in development of materials with a Saskatchewan orientation. Significant funds will be required for training personnel from volunteer groups and non-profit organizations that have appealed for professional help in using SCAN services.

There were many offers of non-monetary assistance and expressions of willingness to co-operate with the SCAN administration. Some presenters were willing to have SCAN centres and/or SCAN headquarters located on their properties. While no specific figures were mentioned, such invitations, if accepted, could reduce the capital investments required to establish the system.

## ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

The implementation of the Saskatchewan Communications Advanced Network must take into consideration several important elements related to its structure and the operational environment in which it would function.

It repeatedly was stated that SCAN must be an organization at "arm's length" from government. It should have autonomy resembling that of a university; be free from political influence; adequately funded; and accountable to the public through an Act of the Legislature. The essential components of such an organizational structure would include:

- A responsive representative Board of Directors whose membership would include women and men from the educational, cultural, industrial, labour, Indian, Native and agricultural sectors. Some of these representatives should have experience in providing or using electronically delivered information.

- Regional Advisory Boards to ensure local representation. To ensure regional programming initiatives, advisory boards should have a level of autonomy and influence on the allocation of funding and program development resources.

- An effective administrative staff, headed by an executive director with strong qualities of leadership and talent in human relations. Suggestions for such an administrative structure were made during the hearings, however, the committee feels that the definition of staff positions and roles is more properly a concern for the design and implementation stages of SCAN development.

The bulk of SCAN programming should be developed from the requirements of organizations such as schools, universities, professional bodies and cultural groups. They, in all circumstances, should be responsible for the content of their programs. SCAN, as distributor, would be responsible to the public for the technical quality of materials distributed on the network. Policies pertaining to program and transmission standards, security on the system, access to production, scheduling, copyright and numerous other issues will need to be established. Issues including sexism, racism, pornography and other controversial public matters also would require clear and precise policy statements. General guidelines with respect to content will need to be established and consideration should be given to placing these into the terms and conditions which govern use of the network.

SCAN could be required to establish a central production facility that would offer both equipment and expertise. One such facility already exists under the administration of the Department of Education. Use of the facilities of universities, technical institutes, schools, cable companies and television stations also should be explored to determine the potential for effective utilization of existing resources. Mobile production facilities and guidance in their use also may be required.

Capitalizing on the resources of existing systems is as important as the use of existing facilities. The offer made by one university to provide a physical location for the SCAN headquarters is worthy of consideration. The provincial library system also would have much to contribute to a new communications system. A working relationship between the library and SCAN would be imperative. Community colleges could be an effective resource for the identification of needs throughout the province. Consideration might be given to the suggestion that the territory served by SCAN advisory boards match that of community college regions to facilitate the exchange of information. Furthermore, many colleges that house "Learning Resource Centres" easily could adapt them to operate as SCAN centres.

## COMMITTEE OBSERVATIONS

Based on the content of briefs, public comments and lengthy discussion the committee has concluded that:

1. The Government of Saskatchewan should establish the Saskatchewan Communications Advanced Network (SCAN) and proceed in the following manner:

    1.1 Design a system and, with appropriate consultation, obtain feedback on the design and make suitable revisions prior to implementation. The design should include descriptions of and cost estimates for a headquarters, pilot SCAN centres, appropriate interfaces with existing organizations, management structures, production facilities, budget requirements, program cost estimates and other identifiable operational requirements. The design also should:

        1.1.1 outline proposals for the extension of the full range of SCAN services to the entire province.

        1.1.2 identify operating educational communications systems elsewhere which should be examined with a view to determining how best to proceed with implementation in Saskatchewan.

        1.1.3 identify operating prototypes within the province which should be considered in the design and which may be used to illustrate typical SCAN services to the public.

        1.1.4 include an investigation of the feasibility of and appropriate methods of attracting production capital from various sectors.

        1.1.5 utilize and permit development of all modes of communications technology and ensure consistency and compatibility of technology wherever possible.

    1.2 Stimulate the production of Saskatchewan oriented materials for data banks, educational/cultural television and teleconferencing through the provision of seed money.

    1.3 Commence liaison with all agencies involved with the provision of educational, cultural and communication services.

2. Consideration should be given to a statement of purpose for the new system such as the following:

    **To encourage, facilitate and co-ordinate the use of communications technology in Saskatchewan in order to enhance the development and delivery of educational, informational and cultural programs for the improvement of human and economic resources.**

3. The Saskatchewan Communications Advanced Network should be created by an Act of the Saskatchewan Legislature and be responsible to the Legislature through a Minister of the Crown:

   3.1 It must have autonomy but should be held accountable to the Minister.

   3.2 A board of directors created under authority of the Act should have representation from educational, cultural, industrial, labour, Indian, Native, and agricultural communities. It should also have some members appointed at large with the total membership not to exceed fifteen.

   3.3. Regional advisory boards with regional representation should be established. These would provide input to the central board and exercise influence over regional matters.

4. Public access to the network should be safeguarded with regulations ensuring input to policy making, scheduling, production, use of media tools and planning. Ongoing response and feedback are imperative.

5. Provincial funding, particularly at the implementation stage, is necessary. The system may have the potential to become financially self-sufficient.

6. The specific functions of SCAN should include:

   6.1 Providing a gateway to electronic "highways" in the province for informational, educational and cultural purposes.

   6.2 Co-ordinating and facilitating roles among users and providers of information and communication services in Saskatchewan where electronic technology would be useful for informational, educational and cultural purposes.

   6.3 Creating the atmosphere and opportunities for institutions, organizations and individuals to utilize the network for better, faster and more efficient services.

   6.4 Fostering the development of distance education in Saskatchewan.

   6.5 Promoting and sponsoring training programs for users and providers of services.

   6.6 Conducting ongoing evaluation of SCAN services.

   6.7 Ensuring standards for technical quality and transmission of programs.

7. SCAN must develop a harmonious and productive relationship with many institutions and organizations in the province. These include the library system, education system, health system, government departments, crown corporations and many other associations and organizations. Utilization of existing systems and resources, as much as possible, should be a fundamental operating principle.

8. SCAN centres should be established throughout the province. The board and regional advisory boards should identify locations for these.

9. SCAN should become a catalyst and clearing house for research and development in the communications and information industry.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

The committee wishes to express its appreciation to all those individuals, groups and organizations who responded to the SCAN proposal. The enthusiastic participation of so many during the public hearing process was central to the success of the hearings.

The committee also wishes to thank the staff of the Communications Policy Branch, Department of Justice, for their efficient handling of the logistics of the public hearings as well as for their assistance during the completion of this report.

August 21, 1984

Mr. Wayne Kyle
Superintendent of Instruction
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1125 Louise Avenue
SASKATOON, Saskatchewan
S7H 2P8

Dear Mr. Kyle:

I was indeed pleased to learn of your accepting the chairpersonship of the Committee that will hear the public's response to the white paper on Saskatchewan Communications Advanced Network (SCAN). I have directed my officials to give you a comprehensive briefing in the near future but in the interim I thought that I should supply you with the Committee's terms of reference. Specifically, these are:

1. to receive public comment respecting SCAN at public hearings and/or by way of written briefs;

2. to discuss the presentations of briefs with the presenters to obtain an appreciation of the potential benefits, difficulties, applications of SCAN;

3. to synthesize the presentations made to the Committee and make observations respecting the public's presentation:

   a. of the most useful applications that can be made of SCAN; and

   b. of the priorities that should be put on SCAN and certain of the proposed applications;

4. to comment on other matters that the Committee may deem of importance to the Government's consideration of SCAN.

5. to prepare a report relating to the above matters, and to submit it to me.

. . . 2

I trust that these terms of reference will be acceptable to you and the Committee but if there is some difficulty with them, I would appreciate your discussing it with Mr. Doug Smith, Associate Deputy Minister, Communications. He will have the responsibility for ensuring that the public hearing process proceeds to our mutual satisfaction.

Thank you for accepting the position of chairperson and I look forward to receiving your report in due course.

Yours truly,

J. Gary Lane
Minister Responsible for Communications

APPENDIX "B"

ORGANIZATIONS

Agriculture Canada, Research Station
Alameda Agriculture Society
Association of Canadian Television and Radio Artists (ACTRA)

Biggar and District #22 Home Care Inc.
Board of Education of the Regina School Division
No. 4 of Saskatchewan

Canadian Computer Curriculum Corporation
Canadian Industrial Traffic League
Carlton Trail Community College
Child Evangelism Fellowship
Chinook Regional Library
City of Swift Current
City Productions Ltd.
Cumberland Community College
Communications, Electronic, Electrical, Technical
and Salaried Workers of Canada
Consumers Association of Canada (Sask.)
Coteau Range Community College
Credit Union Central
Cypress Hills Community College

Dave White Communications
Dumont Institute

Federated Co-operatives
Framework Productions

Globe Theatre

Hittline

Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP)

Ka tip aim soot chic Media Productions

LaRonge Region Community College
Lumby Productions Ltd.

Mistikwa Community College
Multicultural Council of Saskatchewan

Native Co-ordinating Council Family Services
Natonum Community College
Norman MacKenzie Art Gallery
North Battleford Catholic School Board

Organization of Saskatchewan Arts Council

PACE Television
Palliser Hospital
Palliser Regional Library
Parkland Community College
Pollution Probe of Saskatchewan
Prairie Productions
Prairie West Community College
Prince Albert Fire Department
Prince Albert Rural School Division #56
Prince Albert School District #3
Provincial Library

Reel Women's Cable Collective
Regina General Hospital
Regina Plains Community College
Regina Public Library
Registered Nurses Association

Sascable
Saskatchewan Action Committee on the Status of Women
Saskatchewan Advanced Education & Manpower, Regina
Saskatchewan Agriculture, Communications
Saskatchewan Agriculture
Saskatchewan Arts Board
Saskatchewan Association for Computers in
Education (SACE) & Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation
Saskatchewan Association for Life-Long Learning(SALL)
Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities(SARM)
Saskatchewan Association of Motion Picture Producers(SAMPP)
Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres
Saskatchewan Council of Cultural Organizations Inc.
Saskatchewan Education
Saskatchewan Environment
Saskatchewan Health
Saskatchewan Health Care Association
Saskatchewan History and Folklore Society Inc.
Saskatchewan Indian Federated College
Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists
Saskatchewan Libraries Trustees Association
Saskatchewan Library Association
Saskatchewan Museums Association
Saskatchewan Native Communications Corporation
Saskatchewan Northern Native Communications
Saskatchewan Outdoor Education & Environment Association
Saskatchewan Parks and Renewable Resources
Saskatchewan Power Corporation
Saskatchewan Recreation Society
Saskatchewan Registered Nurses Association
Saskatchewan School Trustees Association
Saskatchewan Supply & Services
Saskatchewan Western Development Museum
Saskatchewan Wheat Pool
Saskatchewan Writers Guild
Saskatoon & District Safety Council
Saskatoon Council of Women
Saskatoon Public Library Board

Saskatoon Public School Board of Education
Saskatoon Region Community College
Saskatoon University Women's Club
SaskComp
Size Small Productions Inc.
Society of Engineering Technicians & Technologists
South East Community College
St. Joseph's Hospital, Estevan
Swift Current Union Hospital

Talenta Consulting Association Corporation
Teletronics Communications
Tisdale School Division #53
Town of Shellbrook

University Hospital, Continuing Medical Education
University of Regina
University of Regina, School of Journalism and Communications
University of Saskatchewan
University of Saskatchewan, College of Education
University of Saskatchewan, College of Education, Department for the Education of Exceptional Children
University of Saskatchewan, Department of Animal & Poultry Science
University of Saskatchewan, Division of Extension & Community Relations

Wascana Institute, Agricultural Division
Weigl Educational Publishers Limited

Yorkton Regional High School Board
Yorkton Regional Library
Yorkton Short Film & Video Festival

INDIVIDUALS

Bandurka, Bob, Humboldt
Johnson, Don, Regina
Patho, Linda, North Battleford
Poegal, Henry, Tompkins
Ruth, Charlotte, Sagehill
Truscott, Harwood, Regina
Vermette, Elwyn, Yorkton